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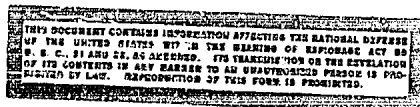
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COMMUNIST SCIENTISTS AND PROSPECTORS IN TIBET

Chungking, 5 June (Hsin-hua) -- In October 1951, the Culture and Education Committee of the Central People's Government sent a working team of scientists and prospectors into Sikang and Tibet to explore and prospect for mineral and other resources. They investigated geological deposits, analyzed soils, and looked into such matters as forestry, stock raising, and grazing.

It is stated that the team, or teams, discovered many valuable resources such as abundant iron-ore deposits, extensive reserves of coal, and copious, overflowing salt springs. Among the rich discoveries were found exceedingly valuable materials useful for making optical instruments. A man-made canal, several li long, made to drive a waterwheel for grinding grain was found.

Although the Tibetans had previously been hostile to parties of Chinese or foreigners wishing to enter and explore Tibetan territory because the Tibetans perceived the visitors' vicious purposes behind their false front, in this case the Tibetan Liberation Committee at Ch'ang-tu, representing 120,000 people, expressed a cordial welcome to the Chinese Communist party of scientists. The committee presented to them an embroidered banner bearing the words, "Builders of Tibet," when assurances had been given that the party was there to help the Tibetan people to develop their land and free them from poverty. As evidence of the Tibetans' love and respect, they gladly assisted as guides, porters, and diggers for uncovering veins of minerals.

The seeds of science which the Chinese party has scattered in Tibet have already put down roots and begun to flower. An iron-smelting team attached to the PLA brought in parts of a smelter, and with the aid of the local people, it was put into operation to produce iron with which the Tibetans can make tools for production. Salt from the salt springs is already being put on the market at Ch'ang-tu, Fo-mi, and other distant places.

The Tibetans expressed sincere gratitude to Mao Tse-Tung for his solicitude in their welfare and hoped that similar teams of scientific workers will continue to come to Tibet to discover and develop the rich resources of their territory.

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